

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 PM-03 INR-05 L-02 ACDA-05 NSAE-00

PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00 SAJ-01

ISO-00 DODE-00 SS-15 NSC-05 /060 R

DRAFTED BY OASD/ISA:JTYLER/EUR/RPM:COL RTHOMPSON

APPROVED BY EUR:JGLOWENSTEIN

OASD/ISA:MG MCAULIFFE

JCS/J-5:COL PARRISH (INFO)

OASD/PA AND E:MR. WOODS

DIA:MAJ LEFEBVRE (INFO)

INR/PMT:RBARAZ

ACDA:LFISCHER

CIA/OSR:DMACEACHIN

EUR/RPM:VLEHOVICH/EJSTREATOR

----- 067097

P R 212144Z OCT 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

USDELMC

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

USLOSACLANT

CINCLANT

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 231542

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, MPOL, NATO

SUBJECT: STRENGTH OF SOVIET ARMED FORCES

REF: A. USNATO 5666 (NOTAL); B. DIA DTG 020929Z (NOTAL)

1. DIA RELEASE TO NATO (REF B) FORWARDING ITS ASSESSMENT
OF AN INCREASE IN SOVIET COMMAND AND GENERAL SUPPORT

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STRENGTH OF ABOUT 800,000 REFLECTS A PRELIMINARY

INDEPENDENT AGENCY JUDGMENT WHICH IS NOW UNDER REVIEW IN US. NORMAL HANDLING HERE WILL INVOLVE A MAJOR HIGH-LEVEL REVIEW PRIOR TO SUBMISSION BY US TO NATO OF FIGURES EMERGING FROM US REVIEW FOR CONSIDERATION IN MC 161 SPRING CONFERENCE.

2. ACCORDING TO DIA, WHICH CHARACTERIZES ITS NEW FIGURES AS THE PRELIMINARY RESULT OF A RECENT REASSESSMENT, THE INCREASED NUMBER COMPRISES THOSE INDIVIDUALS ASSIGNED TO THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE AND SERVICE STAFFS AS WELL AS TO THE SUPPLY, RESEARCH, TRAINING, AND OTHER ACTIVITIES WHICH SERVE AS A SUSTAINING BASE FOR THE SOVIET ARMED FORCES. DIA STATES THAT THE FIGURES DO NOT INCLUDE PERSONNEL ASSIGNED TO THE FIELD FORCES AND, GENERALLY SPEAKING, THE OPERATIONAL SUBORDINATION OF THESE INDIVIDUALS IS ABOVE FRONT, MILITARY DISTRICT AND COMPARABLE LEVELS. THUS, THE FIGURES FOR THE NGA ARE NOT AFFECTED. ALL

SOVIET PERSONNEL IN THE NGA IN THE COMMAND AND GENERAL SUPPORT CATEGORY COVERED IN THE DIA ASSESSMENT PROJECT HAVE ALREADY BEEN ACCOUNTED FOR IN THE MC-224 MILITARY COMMITTEE MEMORANDUM. THE NGA ESTIMATES, AS ADOPTED AT THE MC-224 CONFERENCE, HAVE ALREADY GONE THROUGH A PROCESS OF REFINEMENT WHICH IS ONLY BEGINNING FOR THE OTHER FORCES COVERED BY THE DIA REASSESSMENT PROJECT.

3. PENDING RESULTS OF THE US HIGH-LEVEL REVIEW YOU SHOULD CONTINUE TO DRAW ON AGREED INTELLIGENCE. WITH REGARD TO MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE, WE SEE NO CHANGE IN THE NUMBER OF COMBAT FORCES FACING NATO.

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